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THE BOXWOOD PSYLLID

One of the most abundant insects attacking boxwood is the boxwood psyllid (Psyllia buxi L.). This insect, while very frequently a pest of boxwood, does not appear to cause the plant much injury. Its principal effect is the curling or cupping of the new leaves, which produces a rather unattractive appearance and one that most owners of boxwood are very anxious to avoid. The method advised for controlling this insect consists of spraying several times, about a week or ten days apart, using a nicotine sulphate and soap spray. Use one to two teaspoonfuls of nicotine sulphate 40% and one ounce of soap in one gallon of water. The material should be applied before the leaves have curled or after the adults have come out. In the vicinity of Washington, D. C., early in April is about the time to spray for the young psyllids and mid-May will usually find the first psyllid adults about on the plants.

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